

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JOE HAND PROMOTIONS, INC.,

No. C 12-02706 SI

Plaintiff,

v.

CHRISTOPHER V. CARIASO, dba Fight and  
Fitness, Inc.,

**ORDER DENYING MOTION FOR  
DEFAULT JUDGMENT AND  
GRANTING MOTION TO SET ASIDE  
DEFAULT; AND SETTING CASE  
MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE FOR  
NOVEMBER 6, 2012 AT 3:00 P.M.**

Defendant.

Plaintiff's motion for entry of default judgment and defendant's motion to set aside default are currently scheduled for hearing on November 2, 2012. Pursuant to Civil Local Rule 7-1(b), the Court finds these matters appropriate for resolution without oral argument and hereby VACATES the hearing. Having considered the papers submitted, and for good cause shown, the Court hereby DENIES the motion for entry of default judgment and GRANTS the motion to set aside the default so that this matter may be heard on its merits. **The Court sets the next case management conference for Tuesday, November 6, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.**

This case was filed on May 25, 2012. Defendant Cariaso was served on July 17, 2012, but no answer was filed. The clerk entered default on August 27, 2012. On September 20, 2012, plaintiff filed a motion for entry of default judgment, and on September 27, 2012, defendant filed a motion to set aside the default.

"[D]efault judgments are ordinarily disfavored. Cases should be decided upon their merits whenever reasonably possible." *Eitel v. McCool*, 782 F.2d 1470, 1472 (9th Cir. 1986). A court may

1 set aside entry of default under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 55(c) for “good cause shown.”  
2 *Franchise Holding II, LLC v. Huntington Rests. Group, Inc.*, 375 F.3d 922, 925 (9th Cir. 2004). The  
3 “good cause” analysis considers three disjunctive factors: (1) whether defendant engaged in culpable  
4 conduct that led to default; (2) whether defendant has a meritorious defense; or (3) whether plaintiff  
5 would be prejudiced by setting aside the default. *Id.* at 926. Here, the Court finds that defendant  
6 Cariaso has shown, in his declaration submitted in support of his pro se motion to set aside the default  
7 (Docket No. 18-1), that he did not engage in culpable conduct with respect to the default, defendant may  
8 have a meritorious defense, and plaintiff would not suffer prejudice if the default is set aside.

9 Accordingly, the Court denies plaintiff’s motion for default judgment and sets aside the default.

10 **The Court will hold a case management conference on Tuesday, November 6, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.**

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12 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

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14 Dated: October 23, 2012



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SUSAN ILLSTON  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE